



# California Fair Political Practices Commission

January 10, 1989

Michael W. Huse  
City Manager  
City of Solana Beach  
390 Stevens Avenue, Suite 120  
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Re: Your Request for Informal  
Assistance  
Our File No. I-88-486

Dear Mr. Huse:

We have received your letter requesting the Commission to review and comment on a councilmember's use of city business cards in connection with a campaign solicitation. Your question concerns past conduct; therefore, we are unable to provide you with advice concerning this situation. (Regulation 18329(c), copy enclosed.) Complaints concerning possible violations of the Political Reform Act are handled by the Commission's Enforcement Division. Please contact me at (916) 322-5901 if you wish your letter to be considered a complaint and referred to the Enforcement Division.

Sincerely,

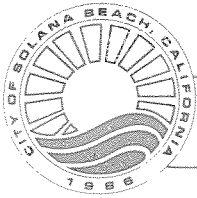
Diane M. Griffiths  
General Counsel

*Kathryn E. Donovan*

By: Kathryn E. Donovan  
Counsel, Legal Division

DMG:KED:plh

Enclosure



## CITY OF SOLANA BEACH FPPC

380 STEVENS AVENUE • SUITE 120 • SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA 92075 • (619) 755-2998

DEC 14 3 40 PM '88

December 9, 1988

Dianne M. Griffiths  
General Counsel  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Griffiths:

During the recent election campaign an incident occurred that warrants review by the Fair Political Practices Commission.

An incumbent, Councilmember Marion Dodson, placed her city business card in a letter distributed to friends and acquaintances soliciting support for her candidacy. Councilmember Dodson sought the advice of the City Attorney prior to mailing the letters, but apparently there was a misunderstanding regarding the opinion rendered by legal counsel.

The City Attorney felt he was responding to a question regarding the use of business cards in conjunction with general correspondence, not something related to a campaign solicitation. Councilmember Dodson felt the direction given included campaign material.

Eventually, the appropriateness of the action was brought to the attention of city staff and after conferring with another city attorney, the councilmember was asked to reimburse the city for the cost of the cards used in the mailer. In addition, the councilmember was advised that the cards should not be used in the manner described above. The amount of reimbursement totaled \$19.21 and represented payment for 200 cards. The latter was an estimate provided by Mrs. Dodson.

This inquiry is one of several associated with the November 8, 1988, election campaign that have been forwarded to the Commission from the City of Solana Beach for review and comment.

Thank you for your assistance and please call if you have any questions or desire further information.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL W. HUSE  
City Manager

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